The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Clarion Call

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts
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From the Department Commander

Greetings Brothers,

As we transition from seeing 2021 to seeing 2022 and writing 2022 on checks and other documents, tradition almost dictates that people and groups look both backwards and forward.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War can trace its history back to the Grand Army of the Republic then through The Sons of Veterans of the United States of America until a name change in 1925 created The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is said that membership in the Sons of Veterans (SV) peaked in 1904 at about 200,000 members. Currently our National membership stands at about 6400 members.

Our recent grapple with Covid seems to have generated an increase in interest in our Order but also the unfortunate loss of members from the virus. We all remember that our Department Commander, Chip Chambers, was among those who succumbed.

Covid has certainly changed our activities over the last few years- Zoom meetings and a smaller number of close-contact activities have dramatically altered how Camps have operated. Such things have made it harder to be active and visible which are things the Sons need to do to continue to be vibrant.

It will be up to each of us as to whether the perceived interest in the SUVCW and the minor recent bump-up in membership will endure and continue.

So, what can we do? We can look forward! We can plan ways now so that when more "normal" times come, we have a path forward to show our communities who we are and what we do to keep alive the memory of the men who fought to save the Union from 1861-1865.

I'd wager that each of us has an idea about how to move forward- bring your idea to your Camp; discuss it and get your Brothers excited about it; formulate a plan to make it happen; share your idea with other Camps. (I suspect our Editor could find some space to let you tell others what the idea is!)

At the turn of the year, I want to thank each Camp and every Brother for all you have been doing to move the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War forward -often in difficult and uncertain situations and times.

My hope for all of us is that 2022 will be filled with health, happiness, and marked by our continued efforts to make our Camps and Department strong and visible.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Bill

Annual Remembrance Day Trip to Gettysburg

This year's Remembrance Day trip to Gettysburg was a huge success and we enjoyed excellent weather the entire weekend. We traveled to Gettysburg on Thursday and checked into our hotel. Friday morning, we traveled to Leesburg Virginia for a guided tour of Ball's Bluff battlefield.

Saturday was, as always, an action-packed day. The majority of the brothers attended the Sons of Veterans Reserve annual Gettysburg breakfast. After breakfast, we headed off to the National Cemetery, where we placed a floral wreath at the Massachusetts action and we read aloud the names of all of the soldiers buried there as part of our remembrance duties. Next, we gathered at the Albert Woolson memorial in the Ziegler's woods section of the battlefield. Albert Woolson was the last official survivor of the over 2 million men who served the United States in the Civil War and the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic. Flowers were placed by the allied orders of the GAR at the memorial in honor of our Union Forefathers who fought so bravely at Gettysburg. President Abraham Lincoln was present and gave, once again, the Gettysburg Address.

Following the ceremony at the Woolson Memorial, we all gathered up for the grand parade through Gettysburg. Onlookers noted that it was one of the longest parades in recent memory and we had an excellent turnout of brothers from all over the country. Join us for the trip next year!

Floral wreath placed at the Massachusetts section by the Department.

Brothers Charles Lewis, Department Chaplain Dexter Bishop, Department Secretary Dan Murray, Department Junior Vice Commander Roderick Fraser, Brother Al Smith.

Brothers of the First Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve marching in the parade.

Ball's Bluff Battlefield Guided tour!

On the Friday of our Gettysburg trip, we traveled to Leesburg, VA for a guided tour of the Bll'sbluff Battlefield. The following excerpted from From www.battlefields.org:
"On the evening of October 20, 1861, Union army commander George B. McClellan ordered Gen. Charles Stone to send a scouting party across the Potomac River to identify the positions of Confederate Col. Nathan Evans's troops near Leesburg. In the darkness the party's inexperienced leader, Capt. Chase Philbrick, mistook a line of trees for a line of tents and reported that he had stumbled across an unguarded Confederate camp. Early the next day, Col. Charles Devens was sent across the river to attack the camp, and after realizing that the supposed "camp" was nothing but a line of trees, his men encountered a company of Mississippi infantry and a skirmish began. Col. Edward Baker, a U.S. Senator, decided to reinforce Devens, but with only four small boats available to transport men, Union reinforcements arrived slowly. Evans used the Federal delay to organize his men, and when Col. Baker was killed in the afternoon,

Union resistance crumbled. The victorious Confederates drove the Yankees over the bluff and into the Potomac, where many drowned and hundreds surrendered rather than risk escape into the river. The battle, while small in scale, had major political implications that would haunt the Union army for the rest of the war."
At the battle fo Ball's Bluff, the namesake of Camp 25, John William Grout (July 25, 1843 – October 21, 1861) was killed in battle.

Bay State Camp 61 Participates in Rededication of Framingham's Veteran's Park
Stuart (Chip) Chambers Honored

The Veteran's Park of the City of Framingham was dedicated during the Truman Administration and over the years had become severely overgrown and neglected. In February 2021 Police officer Lt. Robert Downing proposed the park be rebuilt and rededicated.

In nine short months the work was done with the funds raised by "selling" bricks on the walkway to honor veterans. Our own Stuart (Chip) Chambers USN was so honored by the Department at the suggestion of Camp 61. In addition, the Camp honored Pvt. Conrad Homan with a brick. Pvt. Homan is Framingham's only Medal of Honor winner for his bravery at Petersburg.

For the dedication ceremony Camp 61 Commander Mark Lewis, also a Framingham resident volunteered to assemble a timeline of reenactors to represent the various eras of veterans. He represented a Civil War soldier and Donald Hayes represented the members of the SUVCW. Others represented Word War II, both men and women, and Korea.

The ceremony held on Veteran's Day was well attended and impressive. Camp 61 has made some friends in the city and hopes to further honor Pvt. Homan.

Brother Don Hayes, Cmdr. Mark Lewis

Cmdr. Mark Lewis & Lt. Robert Downing

Timeline of veterans

Cmdr. Mark Lewis & monument

The New SUVCW Memorial University Website is up and running!

Memorial University is the website for the new SUVCW professional development program. In the coming months, this site will be updated with new content providing more information about the program, its features, and how you will engage with it. This system is designed for use with a desktop or laptop computer, it is functional with your mobile device but some formatting could be altered.

Whether you are a brand-new brother or one who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to our Order, let me welcome you to this site and thank you for committing yourself to further your professional development in the SUVCW.

Currently, the SUVCW constitution and Regulations course is open for you to read and learn about our order. Other courses under development are:
American Civil War Studies
Grans Army of the Republic Studies
Check out the website at https://www.suvcwmu.org/

New Brothers!

Eric Joonseo Gold; Camp 54 - Roderick Fraser

Photo of the Gen Charles Russell Lowell GAR Post Burial Plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston circa 1900

Subscribe to our Official Youtube Channel!

We now have an official Youtube channel!
Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzwX8zEzofE5hNGhEyE157w

If you have any videos for the channel, contact Brother Rod Fraser of the Marketing and Promotions Committee at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com.

Flag Holders and Headstone Cleaning Supplies

The Department has acquired limited supplies for Camps planning on performing Graves Registration work or cemetery headstone cleaning. We now have Civil War Veteran and GAR flag holders available, to indicate Civil War Veteran's graves. These flag holders have been unavailable for the past year, and we had to have them specially cast. Please be sure that any

graves that are discovered are also entered into the SUVCW's National Graves Registration Database.
For headstone cleaning, we have acquired a supply of D-2 Biological Cleaner. Contact Bill Naughton, (billsland@aol.com), Dept Graves Registration Officer for further information, assistance or to reserve flag holders for your Camp.

From the Department Patriotic Instructor

Brothers, I would encourage every camp commander to appoint a Patriotic Instructor. Each month the National Patriotic Instructor will be publishing a Patriotic Instruction. I need an email address for each camp patriotic instructor so that I can send them the national patriotic instruction.
Form 41 was filed with National. We got responses from 5 camps. (25, 50, 54, 61, 104)
The Patriotic Instructor Handbook can be found here:
http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/National-PI-Handbook-v2.1.pdf

I also encourage all to check out the new Memorial University site:
https://www.suvcwmu.org/

Any questions can be addressed to me at KenLondon@comcast.net

Save the Date for Department Encampment!

Department Encampment will be held April 1 - 3, 2022. Please plan on attending. More information will be in the next Clarion Call.

Help Support the order!

Brothers, now that we are a 501 3C organization, the webpage is up for giving directly to the order. The link to the donation page is https://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=3536

Department of Massachusetts Officers 2021-2022

Commander	William B Naughton:	617-835-4736 email: billsland@aol.com
Senior Vice Commander	John Dupre:	978-562-5319 email: jdupre5762@aol.com
Junior Vice Commander	Roderick J Fraser Jr:	617-201-0105 email: rjfraserjrusn@gmail.com
Council Member 1	Kevin P Tucker:	617-678-6003 email: ktsuv@outlook.com
Council Member 2	Dexter A. Bishop:	978-471-0791 email: genord9@comcast.net
Council Member 3	George E. Maple Jr:	508-410-5448 email gmaplejr@gmail.com
Secretary	Daniel Murray:	603-347-1723 email: d_lmurray@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Daniel Murray:	603-347-1723 email: d_lmurray@yahoo.com
Patriotic Instructor	Kenneth London:	781-848-8408 email kenlondon@comcast.net
Chaplain	Dexter Bishop:	978-471-0791 email: genord9@comcast.net
Graves Registration Officer	William B Naughton:	617-825-4736 email: billsland@aol.com
Historian	Rev. Dr. Peter Preble:	508-864-8095 email rev.peter.preble@gmail.com
Civil War Memorials Officer		
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Iain Knight	978-365-7628 email: iaink4313@GMail.com
Counselor	Kevin P Tucker:	617-678-6003 email: ktsuv@outlook.com
GAR Highway Officer	George E Maple:	508-410-5448 email: gmaplejr@gmail.com
Department Organizer		
Color Bearer	Edward Knight	413-323-7392 email: ed-mary@msn.com
ROTC Officer	Albert Smith	617-484-5613 email: ohjudyoh@yahoo.com
Web Master	Jack Manning	email: jack@manning.net
Department Quartermaster	John Wilder	email: jwwt2000@hotmail.com

The Department of Massachusetts

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

invites you to join us in celebrating the life and legacy of

President Abraham Lincoln

at our annual

Lincoln Birthday Brunch

on

Sunday, February 13th, 2022

at 10:00 AM

Harrington's Pub

17 Water Street

Wakefield, Massachusetts

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Our Featured Speaker will be

Paul Lloyd Hemphill

author of

"Why You're Already A Leader:
Gettysburg Stories Prove Leadership Is In Your DNA"

and

"Gettysburg Lessons in the Digital Age"

Tickets are $25.00 per person and must be
purchased no later than February 11th, 2022

Seating is limited. Please send a check or money order
payable to "Dept. of Mass., SUVCW" to:

Kevin Tucker
58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Contact Kevin Tucker, PDC with any questions at (617) 678-6003 or by Email at ktsuv@outlook.com

***Business or period attire, please. ***